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Date: 11/21/2013 12:24:48 PM
Subject: FW: ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH: Nuclear critic urges removalof radioactive waste at West Lake Landfill, BY JEFFREY TOMICH

Hello Karl, Hello Chris:

This is what I am walking into later today.

Any good advise you can provide would be appreciated.

Thanks

SBE

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Nuclear critic urges removal of radioactive waste at West Lake Landfill

33 minutes ago • BY JEFFREY TOMICH

BRIDGETON • The West Lake Landfill is, in reality, an unregulated radioactive waste dump that should be cleaned up under the same federal program as similar St. Louis-area sites contaminated with World War II-era uranium processing residues, a nuclear industry critic said in a report released today.

The 17-page report isn't based on new data. Instead, it draws from dozens of existing studies that go back more than half a century.

The report was prepared for the Missouri Coalition for the Environment by Robert Alvarez, a former Congressional investigator and adviser to three energy secretaries during the Clinton administration. An outspoken critic on nuclear waste issues, Alvarez is scheduled to present his analysis at a public meeting tonight in Bridgeton.

Alvarez joins a chorus of local residents, environmental activists and local officials calling for Congress to give responsibility for the cleanup at West Lake to the Army Corps of Engineers, which is cleaning up similarly contaminated sites across St. Louis.

The calls for action at West Lake have grown louder because of a subsurface fire smoldering deep within the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill.

Alvarez said the EPA, which took over responsibility for the site almost 20 years ago, continues to rely on incomplete information and incorrect assumptions that underplay risks posed by radioactive materials dumped 40 years ago.

"The EPA never questioned what I call 'the official story' of what went where, so I started to look at that a little bit more carefully," he said in an interview.

Alvarez said the EPA's 2008 decision to leave radioactive wastes at West Lake in place beneath a rock, clay and soil cap ignores the fact that the site is in the Missouri River floodplain, in a populated area.

"To assume that none of this stuff will ever migrate is just not supportable," he said.

The EPA's 2008 decision is currently being reevaluated with no set timetable for issuing new cleanup plans.

Alvarez does agree with EPA on one important point. Transferring responsibility for the cleanup to the Corps of Engineers requires Congressional action.

So far, the St. Louis-area Congressional delegation has urged the EPA to clean up the site adequately. But none have gone so far as to call for the Corps of Engineers to take over.